Early 1940's

Modesto and Benedita Rodrigo in front of their home at 460 Bryant St. Mtn. View.

Parents of Bob, Adele, Frances, Victor, Ernie, Rose and Ann Rodrigo.

Modesto was born in Peñaranda, Spain on June 15, 1885 and Benedita was born in Tala, Spain April 26, 1896.

Hoping for a better life, they were lured by a bulletin, which was widely posted, advertising for spanish immigrants to work the sugar plantations in Hawaii. "Emigracion Con Pasaje Gratuito al Estado De Hawaii" (Estados-Unidos De America) according to the contract a home on an acre of land would be their's at the end of three years.

They left their native land on the S.S. Harpalion, fourth of six ships, Lloyd's Register 1907-1912 from Gibralter to U.S. through port of Honolulu.

Like so many of their countrymen, they worked hard and through many difficulties, fulfilled their obligations, but were never compensated according to the contract thus resulting in the 1913 exodus to the mainland where many of the "Sugar Boat Spaniards" as they became known, settled in Mtn. View, Ca.

My father's first job in America was for Southern Pacific as a railroad track repairman at 10¢ an hour.

To Mountain View Historical Association

Courtesy of Frances Rodrigo Trimmer
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